INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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Your United States Senators and Representatives declaring themselves on the Bartlett-Bacon bills. You have a right to know.

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VOL. 3. NO. 40 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1914. WHOLE NO. 144

CONVICTS ON ROADS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—Several speakers discussed the question of using convicts on the roads at the session of the American Road Builders' Association. These delegates agreed that prisoners should be so employed, both from a standpoint of morals and as a saving to the State. State Geologist Pratt, of North Carolina, urged that the prisoners be divided into three classes, and by good conduct the prisoner would be permitted to reach the first class, which would consist of "honor" men. State Highway Commissioner Wilson, of Virginia, indorsed these suggestions. He said: "A certain amount of outdoor work is necessary for the health of the prisoners. The State should not be vindictive and ruin his health and starve his family while making him pay the penalty of a crime. If used on the roads the men should be paid fair wages, with the actual cost of their keep subtracted and should be paid a fair amount for overtime and extra work. House the men well in sanitary, scientifically constructed camps. Give them good food and see to it that the guards play square with them. Personally, I believe long-term men can be trusted to keep faith. Encourage the families of prisoners to stick by them, to visit them often, and write to them. Make it plain that when they serve their sentence the State is willing to give them a fresh start. Let the State board of health have control of the camps. Give the men books and magazines. The State will be a hundred times repaid, not only in new roads, but in new citizens who will be a credit to the community."

WILL NOT AFFECT STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Jan. 3.—The enjoining of thirteen members of the local Ladies' Garment Workers' union by Superior Court Judge Oppenheimer will have no effect on the striking workers against the Fulworth Garment company. Under the order, workers are conceded the right to organize, strike, picket and persuade in "a lawful manner." The court, however, upholds judicial traditions by maintaining the right to be sole judge and jury in the event strikers overstep the mental limits of legal action which the court has set. The Ladies' Garment Workers say the order has "never touched us," but the incident has awakened them to the power of courts in injunctions proceedings, which the Bartlett-Bacon bills, now before Congress, and urged by the American Federation of Labor, would regulate.

MINNESOTA UNIONISTS AWAKE.

St. Paul, Jan. 3.—At the recent meeting of the executive committee of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor the officers reported the state movement was wide-awake and making continued progress. It was decided to renew the fight for uniform text books in the state; to invite other states to send fraternal delegates to the Duluth convention; inviting the railroad brotherhoods to join with them in securing legislation; better boiler inspection; endorsed the Bartlett-Bacon bills, now before the federal congress, which would abolish labor injunctions and remove unions from trust classification; ordered secretary-treasurer to procure literature on the initiative and referendum; pledged support to striking Miners, and congratulated President Gompers upon his re-election as president of the American Federation of Labor.

FURUSETH RESIGNS.

London, Jan. 3.—Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union, who, as a delegate from the United States, has been attending the International Conference of Safety at Sea, in session here, has sailed for America, after announcing that he had forwarded the following cablegram to President Wilson: "As the conference has favorably considered committee reports which contain provisions which will reduce materially the existing standard of safety, and as I am true to the real standards of safety, I cannot sign these reports. I, therefore, tender my resignation, to be effective at once."

WOULD MOVE MEN TO JOBS.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The labor commissioners of several states have formed the American Association of Public Employment Officers, which will interest itself in placing unskilled unemployed in sections where this labor is in demand. The speakers declared the problem is an interstate one. The Federal government will be urged to establish agencies, and the meeting favored establishment of public employment offices in those states where none now exist. Co-operation between the state exchanges was urged, as was also the publication of bulletins relative to the question at issue.

AMERICAN RATES SCANDALOUS.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Representative Lewis, of Maryland, one of labor's group in Congress, stated that American telephone and telegraph rates are far in excess of those of any other nation. Mr. Lewis is recognized as an authority on the subject by the postal department and he says that American interburban telephone rates is the scandal of public service rates the world over. His remedy is government ownership of the telephone lines which could be used then for telegraphic purposes, thus gradually "freezing out" the privately owned telegraph corporations.

WOMEN WAGE EARNERS.

St. Paul, Jan. 3.—Minnesota has 45,245 women wage earners, comprising 16 per cent of all employes in 24,505 establishments inspected by the state labor bureau. There are 6,192 women employed in offices of factories and mercantile establishments. It is also shown that there are 316 girls under sixteen years of age employed in factories and eight under sixteen employed in offices. The largest number of women are employed in hotels and restaurants.

CENSUS OF MINERS.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 3.—The chief of the Mine Department of West Virginia has compiled a statement showing that there are 70,321 men employed in the state's mining industry. Of this number 32,612 are Americans, 14,000 are negroes, and 23,709 are foreigners, of whom the majority are Italians.

CARPENTERS DEMAND MORE.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 3.—Beginning with May 1 of this year, the organized Carpenters will demand 55 cents an hour, and a Saturday half-holiday. These workers insist that conditions here are not equal to other cities of the rank and size of St. Paul.

NEW CANADIAN CENTRAL BODY.

Three Rivers, Quebec, Jan. 3.—Aided by Montreal unionists, the organized workers of this city have just formed a Trades and Labor Council. At a mass meeting of over 600 unionists the new movement was launched.

GUARD THEIR DOLLARS BEST.

Washington, Jan. 3.—In words that can not be mistaken, the Interstate Commerce Commission, in its annual report to congress, charges that American railroads guard their dollars in a manner that must command admiration, while they are negligent of human lives. The report says: "The auditing and checking system used for detecting the dishonesty of employes are marvels of ingenuity and careful attention to detail, but means of determining whether trains are operated in accordance with requirements of safety and in conformity with the rules are entirely lacking. It would seem that adequate inspection and supervision of the work of employes to insure safety in operation would be amply justified from the standpoint of economy alone."

The commission calls attention to the custom of using inexperienced men to flag trains, while the overspeeding of employes is mentioned as another reason why accidents occur. The commission recommends that Congress give it greater power to inspect roadways and rails as a preventative measure against wrecks.

FOR BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

Washington, Jan. 3.—Nearly 1,000 citizens of Washington were required to move into sanitary dwellings as a result of the work done by the Board of Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings during the fiscal year that closed June 30. Inspections were made of 215 buildings in alleys, and 181 were ordered demolished. On streets 311 buildings were inspected and 134 of these structures were required to be removed. The total number of persons required to obtain new quarters through action of the board since 1907 is approximately 5,293. It is also asserted that 4,124 persons have been benefited by repairs in streets and alleys since the organization of the board. With but few exceptions houses in alleys at the present time are not condemnable to destruction, but are kept in repair by notices served from time to time as conditions warrant.

URGE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 3.—"It is not more labor laws that we want so much as to have labor recognized in the organic law, our State constitution. Every legislature passes laws for the benefit of labor and some court pronounces some of these laws unconstitutional. What we need is a new constitution," said Senator J. C. McNealus, in an address to the Dallas labor forward movement. The speaker, with others, urged that candidates for the legislature be called upon to pledge themselves to vote for the calling of a convention to adopt a constitution for the State that will recognize economic conditions have changed since our present State organic law was adopted.

TO SAVE RADIUM-BEARING ORES

Washington, Jan. 3.—Representative Foster, chairman of the house committee on mines and mining, favors congress stepping in between foreign syndicates and Americans now struggling for possession of the rich radium-bearing ores in Utah and Colorado. Mr. Foster says he will introduce a bill withdrawing from public entry all public lands in the west known to contain carnetite and other radium-bearing ores. Mr. Foster will urge speedy action, as radium is worth about $2,250,000 an ounce. There is a great demand for it, and scientists and medical men are calling for government control because of radium's alleged cancer-curing properties.

BOILERMAKERS ARE FIRM.

Newport News, Va., Jan. 3.—Agents of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company are in Philadelphia, New York and other eastern points in a futile effort to secure strikebreakers for the company, whose Boilermakers went on strike last October because they refused to accept piece work and insisted on the abolishment of unfair conditions that then existed. The men are as determined as ever and the Metal Trades department of the American Federation of Labor, at its Seattle convention, decided to take a hand in the affair, in an effort to bring about an adjustment.

WAITERS WIN AT CLEVELAND.

Cleveland, Jan. 3.—The strike of waiters, cooks, and other employes against several hotels has ended, so far as the Hollenden and Colonial are concerned. At a conference the managers granted better working conditions, a working week of six days, and a wage increase of $2.50 a month. The original wage demand was a $5 a month increase. The strikers have returned to work. The Statler hotel refused to enter the conference, and now the strikers will devote their energies toward convincing the management that the policy of the Hollenden and the Colonial is better business.

A MODERN MRS. PARTINGTON.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—The well-meaning old lady who tried to sweep back the ocean with a broom has a counterpart in Alba B. Johnson, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, who is quoted as deploring the progressive principles of the age, as exemplified in the eight-hour day. Mr. Johnson is quite sure nothing but monetary loss and disaster in general awaits this land.

FORMS B. T. COUNCIL.

St. Paul, Jan. 3.—The St. Paul Building Trades Council has had under consideration for a number of weeks the advisability of affiliating itself with the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L. A definite conclusion has now been reached, and the building trades craftsmen will hereafter work under the jurisdiction of the Building Trades Department.

CAPT. GROOME IS ANGRY.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—In an interview, published in a local paper, Captain Groome, of the State Constabulary, indicates that his cup of bitterness is filled to overflowing because the last legislature defeated a proposal to increase his force 150 men. The captain is angry, and expresses the opinion that "labor agitators" are responsible for his undoing.

NEW FEDERAL UNION.

Wheeling, Jan. 3.—The new federal union, recently organized, has decided to apply for an American Federation of Labor charter. It is the intention to interest unskilled workers and those whose calling is not organized by craft unions in this movement, which has already reached such proportions that larger quarters are necessary.

WANT SPY SYSTEM PROBED.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The Commercial Telegraphers' union declares the Western Union is maintaining a spy system, and has called on the industrial relations commission to investigate the claim. The wiremen requested a date be set for the presentation of their case.

HUMAN SACRIFICES AND ASSAULTS CREATE TURMOIL IN COPPER REGION

Calumet, Mich., Jan. 3.—Recent developments have intensified the bitterness in the copper strike zone. At the Christmas celebration, held in a hall that was crowded with strikers and their families, some one, whose identity has not as yet been discovered, although efforts are being made to fix the blame, shouted "Fire!" and in the panic that ensued the lives of seventy-two women and children were destroyed. The press dispatches assert that a charge has been made that it was the result of a premeditated plan to create a situation of this kind, but so far there has been no evidence adduced showing that the shouting of "Fire" in this crowded assembly was done in a malicious manner. Although there was a large sum of money raised for the relief of those who were stricken and to bury the dead, the burying of those who were caught in this awful panic was largely done by the Miners' Union.

Closely following upon the heels of this catastrophe came the brutal assault of President Moyer and Charles H. Tanner at the Scott Hotel, in Hancock, on December 27. The telegram received at the American Federation of Labor headquarters and signed by Ernest Mills, the Secretary of the Western Federation of Miners, states that President Moyer "was shot in the back and dragged more than one and one-half miles through the streets of Hancock by a mob of Wadell-Mahon thugs and Citizens' Alliance, put on board a Milwaukee train, and threatened with death if he dared to return." This telegram also urged that the matter be taken up immediately with Secretary of the Department of Labor Wilson.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Since the catastrophe which occurred in Calumet, Mich., followed by the shooting of President Moyer, of the Miners, a number of telegrams have been received at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor. Among these was one from the Chicago Federation of Labor, in which it was stated that a mass meeting "of the Chicago Federation of Labor protested against the deportation of President Moyer and Auditor Tanner from the Copper District of Northern Michigan. The working men and women of Chicago condemned the brutal assault and inhuman shooting of President Moyer. The deportation of these labor officials from the state of Michigan, while absolutely within their legal rights and entitled to all the protection of the county, state, and nation, must not and shall not be tolerated. Anarchy practiced by the Citizens' Alliance in the copper district, in conjunction with the local and state officials, against the officials of our organizations must be resisted." This telegram proposed that the deported men be escorted back to Calumet by Representatives of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, the Chicago Federation of Labor, the state organizations of Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and the International Presidents of the affiliated unions of the American Federation of Labor, headed by the Executive Council of the latter organization. Other telegrams urged that the Executive Council meet in special session at Calumet at an early date, and also that the International Presidents of affiliated unions to the A. F. of L. be invited to participate.

Simultaneously the Michigan State Federation of Labor issued a call for a special conference, to be held in Lansing, December 31, to take action on the deportations. A large number of representative labor men assembled in Lansing for the purpose of giving force and effect to the general protest which is issuing from all sections of the country. President Gompers in reply to the various telegrams received wired President Moyer as follows:

"Was shocked to learn the outrage and injury inflicted upon you. Take comfort in the assurance that everything will be done within the power of every one of us. Vice President John Mitchell will endeavor to go to Calumet, and I have assigned Organizers Grant Hamilton and James Roach to proceed there in the course of a few days. Have submitted other requests to Executive Council for decision."

The answers to the other telegrams received were in substance similar to the one just reproduced. From information which has come from Chicago, President Moyer's wound is serious, but it is reported that he is recovering rapidly. These incidents have developed a feeling in the copper mining region that is more acute than at any time since the strike started last July. Under the direction of Secretary of Labor Wilson, John B. Densmore, solicitor of the Department of Labor, is in Calumet for the purpose of making an effort to secure a settlement between the copper operators and the miners. Senator Martine, of New Jersey, has also written a letter to Attorney General McReynolds urging that an inquiry be made by the Government's Legal Department. It is understood that Senator Kern, of Indiana, Democratic Senate Leader, contemplates presenting a resolution of similar purport when the Senate convenes after the holiday recess. Congressman Carlin, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, favors an extension of the Erdman Arbitration Act, so as to include the employes of mining companies. The act now only applies to the operating departments of railroads. Out of all of the views and opinions expressed it is indicated that the copper strike and its attendant grewsome features, will receive early attention at the hands of Congress.

MUST PATROL ALL MINES.

Reading, Pa., Jan. 3.—While no official announcement has been made, it is said that at the recent secret conference of mine inspectors, held in this city, it was decided that an order would be issued compelling all coal companies in the anthracite fields to employ patrolmen, who would be expected to examine the face of pitching breasts at least twice a day. This will result in first-hand assurance that no pocket of gas has escaped, nor that there is danger of squeezing. Another order marks the end of fuses and caps in the preparation for blasting. Instead electric batteries must be used. These two measures were urged by the United Mine Workers, but they were defeated by the state senate in the last legislature. It would appear that while the Miners were defeated, as far as placing their views on the statute books is concerned, their agitation has called the public's attention to the life-saving merits of the proposals which are now receiving the attention of the state mining department.

GRAND JURIES CRITICISED.

Baltimore, Jan. 3.—Insisting that local grand juries are indifferent when organized labor seeks conviction of violators of labor laws, the Federation of Labor of this city has entered a protest against the present method of selecting grand juries, and a committee has been appointed to draft a bill for presentation at the coming state legislature which will provide that grand jury names be drawn from polling lists the same as for other juries. The present plan is to take the names from the assessors' list, which, naturally, results in placing the large property holder on jury duty.

TO COMBAT "TIPPING" CUSTOM.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—The recently formed Federation of Pullman Porters have received a promise of assistance, it is said, from the railroad brotherhoods in a campaign against the present "tipping" system on Pullman cars. These workers say various commercial associations have passed resolutions condemning the practice and the porters believe these organizations will aid them in the passage of an anti-tipping law. The agitation will undoubtedly make public the low wages and other conditions under which the porters are forced to labor.

A "FORWARD" FOR WHEELING.

Wheeling, Jan. 3.—"With all sails set and our flag nailed to the mast," is the announcement of the Organization Campaign Committee to local trade unionists that they have perfected plans for a Labor Forward Movement of unusual proportions. Every local in the city has promised to support the committee's efforts. Headquarters will be opened by the committee and maintained until the campaign closes.

EFFECT OF PARCELS POST.

Hartford, Jan. 3.—According to the annual report of the Connecticut Public Utilities Commission, just made public, the parcels post has created havoc with the receipts of express companies. Every company operating in this State reported marked decreases which, in one instance, amounted to $89,872.

DISCUSSED LABOR PROBLEM.

Washington, Jan. 3.—At the joint session of the American Association for Labor Legislation and the American Political Science Association, held in this city this week, addresses were delivered by trade union officials, college professors and state and federal officials, on subjects that covered various phases of the labor problem.

LONGSHOREMEN ARE ACTIVE.

Baltimore, Jan. 3.—Declaring that the wages paid Longshoremen in this city will not compare with rates in other localities, the International Longshoremen's union has inaugurated an organizing campaign which is already attracting Baltimore deck workers.

TOLL OF THE MINES.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 3.—Reports from six of the coal-producing counties of this state for the first eleven months of 1913 show that for every 700,000 tons of coal mined, one miner was called upon to give up his life.

HUMAN LIFE, $75.

New York, Jan. 3.—One of the last scenes of the ghastly Triangle fire, March 25, 1911, was enacted in this city when Surrogate Fowler signed an order permitting the administrators of the estates of nine victims to settle their claims against the owner of the building for $75 apiece. It is said the money was paid by a casualty company in which the owner was insured.

NEWS FROM BOSTON.

Boston, Jan. 3.—Railway Clerks employed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad have presented their new agreement to the company officials, who are in a more receptive mood since they have learned the men favored a strike and were ready to enforce their demands by a walkout. Engineers' unions Nos. 16 and 263, it is announced, have secured the consent of nearly all their employers to the new wage scale, while the Department Store Drivers and Helpers' union say that all firms have agreed to the new wage rate and working rules. The Boston Central Labor union was represented at Chamber of Commerce conferences regarding enforcement of existing laws for fire prevention and protection. Metal Polishers Union, No. 95, is protesting against the attitude of certain firms toward the state law, which calls for blowers on emery wheels. Attention of the new State Board on Labor will be called to the employers' indifference. The Elevator Operators and Porters' union has decided that their minimum wage rate shall be $15 a week, starting on March 1. Officials of railroad brotherhoods and the Boston and Maine officials are holding conferences on the application of the recent wage increase awards to the existing agreements. Both sides believe a satisfactory decision will be reached. Arbitration hearings on the wage question of the Boston Street Car Men's union are closed. It is said a decision will be handed down some time this month.

HAS FINANCIAL TROUBLES.

Saginaw, Mich., Jan. 3.—In answer to the claim of the Pere Marquette railroad that the Federated Shopmen are returning to work and their strike is lost, the strikers' executive board has issued a statement to the contrary, and also call attention to the efforts of the receivers to secure consent of state officials to float $1,500,000 worth of receivers' certificates. The claim is also made that the road is now bonded for three times its physical value.

SHOP SYSTEM FEDERATION.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jan. 3.—A large meeting was held here in the interests of the shop system federation, represented by the crafts employed in the local Rock Island shops. It is intended to hold similar meetings at other cities and show the advantages of the various crafts working as a harmonious unit.

WOULD BAR LABOR BROKERS.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Because local employment agencies shipped strikebreakers to work in Cleveland hotels on strike, the Allied Restaurant Trades have called upon Mayor Harrison to revoke the licenses of concerns thus involved.

OVERLAPPING AGAIN.

London, Jan. 3.—Demarcation disputes have increased to such an extent in the building industry that the National Building Trades' Conciliation Board is asking the unions interested to favor the creation of a committee to be known as the Demarcation Committee, which will attempt to adjust these differences.

LABOR MEET IN NORTHWEST.

Raymond, Wash., Jan. 3.—This thriving little city promises to be crowded the week of Jan. 19 with northwestern trade unionists in attendance, as visitors and delegates, to the convention of the Washington State Federation of Labor, which promises to be an important one.

MARYLAND COMPENSATION BILL.

Baltimore, Jan. 3.—With the announcement of the completion of the workmen's compensation bill, drafted by the commission appointed by the Governor of this State for this purpose several months ago, there comes simultaneously an announcement by Senator E. M. Hammond that he has prepared another compensation bill. Both of these bills will be presented to the coming State legislature. There are radical differences between the two bills. All occupations are included in both bills, except domestic and agricultural. It is predicted that as a result of the introduction of these two bills there will be a spirited contest, but that the result will be a law which will carry in its provisions the necessary protection for all workmen. The labor forces are preparing to protect their interest before the committee to which these bills will be referred by bringing to light the actual conditions which exist in industry and which demand that a law of this character be enacted. Furthermore, the actual results obtained in other states where compensation laws are in force will be brought to the attention of the committee by the representatives of organized labor in an effort to have the best provisions possible incorporated in the bill.

SHOE WORKERS GAIN.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—Steady advances in Canada are reported by the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. The latest gain is the Adams Shoe Company, of this city, manufacturers of children's shoes, which will hereafter bear the union stamp. The Murray Shoe Company, of London, and the Weyland Shoe Company, of Montreal, are also recent accessions to the theory that workers have the right to bargain collectively. The union officials announce that outside of a rapidly declining national movement in Quebec, there is no dualism among Canadian boot and shoe workers.

BRAWNY WOODSMEN TO CONFER.

Aberdeen, Jan. 3.—Because the coming convention of the International Union of Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers and Woodsmen is the first since it broadened its scope and included all workers in the lumber industry, the gathering promises to be both large and instructive. The present organization is the logical development of the old Shingle Weavers' Union, which admitted only that class of workers, but at the Rochester convention of the American Federation of Labor its enlarged jurisdiction was recognized.

SOCIETY TO AID CONVICTS.

Auburn, N. Y., Jan. 3.—The organization among the convicts of the State prison in this city, known as "Pals," has resulted in the formation of the Prisoners' Aid League. Membership consists of men who keep in touch with the isolated men, advising them on matters personal, keep watch for positions for paroled men, and act as relatives to those whose friends are unable to come here and see them. Mr. Thomas Mott Osborne, chairman of the State commission for prison reform, declares "The Pals," a name derived from the initials of the league, is a success.

JUICY C. P. R. MELON.

Montreal, Jan. 3.—The high cost of living and the out-of-work problem are of little interest to the holders of capital stock of the Canadian Pacific railroad who have just shared in the $52,000,000 melon recently decided upon by the directors, and which will take the form of a special investment fund, made up of deferred payments on land sales and securities.

STATE NOT EXEMPT FROM LAW.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 3.—The state supreme court refuses to make any distinction between workers employed by private concerns and those employed by the state. In a decision just handed down the court declines to exempt state institutions, declaring that none of them can legally work their employes more than eight hours in every 24.

UNIONISM IN CONNECTICUT.

Meriden, Conn., Jan. 3.—President Stremlau and his associates on the executive board of the Connecticut Federation of Labor are meeting with success in holding open mass meetings in various parts of the state. The next meeting, at Norwich, promises to be a record-breaker.

FAVOR ANTI-TRUST LAW.

Woonsocket, R. I., Jan. 3.—Rhode Island trade unionists are actively at work creating sentiment in favor of the Bartlett-Bacon bills, now before Congress, which would exempt unions and farmers' organizations from trust classification, and would end the practice of issuing labor injunctions. This activity is caused by the decision of the State branch at its conference in this city, which unanimously accepted the recommendations of President Hoehler on the proposed enactments. Gov. Pothier addressed the convention and reviewed labor legislation secured since 1909, laying especial stress on the workmen's compensation act, passed in 1912, and the fifty-four-hour law for women and children, passed at the last session. The State executive asserted that in his opinion a majority of the labor disputes could be settled satisfactorily if both sides approached the question at issue in the right spirit. The conference urged the State legislature to pass laws helping people to settle on and acquire land for their own use; to pass an arbitration act; to amend the compensation act so it would include all employers of labor, and making it illegal to discharge a worker because of his trade union affiliation.

"HALF A MILLION" THE SLOGAN.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—The decision of the American Federation of Labor to hold its next convention in this city has had a stimulating effect on the local trade union movement, and at a meeting of the Central Labor Union President Cronin appointed a committee of ten to inaugurate a Labor Forward Movement to the end that representatives of the organized wage workers of North America will be greeted next year by half a million trades unionists. Denis A. Hayes, vice president of the American Federation of Labor and president of the Green Glass Bottle Blowers' Association; Frank Feeney, representative of the Elevator Constructors, and W. J. Donovan, representative of the Central body, were given a vote of thanks for their successful efforts in securing the next A. F. of L. convention.

DRY DOCKS TOO SMALL.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The abnormal development in battleship design in the last fifteen years has impaired the usefulness of dry docks constructed during the same period at Boston, Portsmouth, N. H., Philadelphia, Mare Island, Cal., and Charleston, S. C. These dry docks are now inadequate to receive the largest ships, according to the annual report of the chief of the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks. It is added that there are but three dry docks available to receive the largest battleships, these being at New York, Norfolk, and Puget Sound.

BIG TALK BY ANTI-UNIONISTS.

Seattle, Jan. 3.—The strike of Teamsters in this city for better conditions has furnished the Employers' Association of Washington an opportunity to indulge in "big talk," which sounds familiar to the organized wage workers. The Employers' Association, of course, has an abiding faith in the non-union shop, and with this thought in view it specifies as follows: "The allegation has been made that the Employers' Association and given out word that they intend to crush union labor in this city. This statement is true to the extent that we will endeavor to have the principles of our association carried out in our institutions."

INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The Kentucky Court of Appeals held, in the case of Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company vs. Burch's Adm'r, that a freight brakeman of only three months' experience in applying an emergency brake or in seeing one applied was not competent to give an opinion on the distance within which a passenger train going at the rate of forty-five miles an hour could be stopped by the use of the emergency brake.

TO REDUCE THE WORK DAY.

London, Jan. 3.—Thirty unions in the engineering and shipbuilding trades have declared for a forty-eight-hour week without a reduction of wages. At a conference held recently to discuss the question, a committee was appointed to call on the employers in the event the latter are inclined to discuss the question. In all the large industrial centers an active educational campaign is planned.

WANT THEIR DIVIDENDS.

Omaha, Jan. 3.—An unusual case is now entered for trial on the docket of the federal district court, this city. Stockholders of the St. Joseph & Grand Island railroad, a part of the Union Pacific system, have been missing dividends, and have called upon the judiciary to order an abandonment of other expenditures, which they believe unnecessary, until their dividend wants have been satisfied.

OPPOSE LONG FRANCHISE.

Akron, Jan. 3.—The Central Labor Union has gone on record as opposed to granting the Northern Ohio Traction and Light Company a twenty-five-year franchise, asserting that this action is in strict harmony with the declaration of principles of the American Federation of Labor, which demands municipal ownership of public utilities.

CAME TO NO AGREEMENT.

Hazelton, Penn., Jan. 3.—The conference between the Lehigh Traction company and their striking employes resulted in no definite agreement, although the counter offers made would indicate a near settlement. The workers demand a flat rate of 27 cents and the abolishment of the sliding scale. They are now considering the company's proposal.

CARPENTERS GET INCREASE.

Montreal, Jan. 3.—Beginning June 1 of this year Montreal union carpenters will work eight, instead of nine, hours a day, for 45 cents an hour, instead of 42 1-2 cents, as at present. An agreement to this effect has just been signed with the contractors.

ST. LOUIS WORKERS WIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 3.—Striking Ladies' Garment Workers have broken the ranks of the employers' association and signed a contract with the Frelich Suit and Skirt Company. All former employes are reinstated, and the union won practically all its demands.

GLEANERS START CO-OP. PLAN.

Kankakee, Jan. 3.—For the purpose of distributing groceries at cost to the farmers in the northern part of this state, Illinois Gleaners are arranging to open a store at this place. Twelve counties are interested in the venture.

EDUCATION AND ORGANIZATION.

Seattle, Jan. 3.—A literary test for immigrants is the decision of a local conference, which consisted of trade unionists and others numbering 200, interested in social work, who are holding open forums for the purpose of discussing the immigration question. Another important resolution, which was adopted, requests the Federal Department of Labor to act jointly with the department of political and social science of the University of Washington and any other agency of similar purport in an inquiry regarding modifications, if necessary, of land ownership, taxation and credit in this State to permit it to assimilate the immigrant without lowering the present standard of living. In line with this "back-to-the-land" idea, the conference agreed that the State should prepare for cultivation lands to be sold in small tracts on long and easy terms to immigrants who declare their intention of citizenship. It is the purpose to hold these meetings frequently, and the hope is expressed that more Pacific coast communities discuss this question. The conference made an emphatic declaration that organization among the workers on the Pacific coast must be the keynote of successful work "along the lines of preserving to the workers of the country conditions that would make possible a standard of living such as should be maintained." It was also decided to interest the various organizations of foreign citizens on the necessity for friendly co-operation, and show them the necessity of carrying back to their native land the conditions and opportunities along the Pacific coast. It was conceded that there was a "regrettable lack of information among union men on all phases of the immigration question," and it was urged that this issue be made a subject of first importance.

WHAT FIGURES SHOW.

Boston, Jan. 3.—In its report for the year 1912, just issued by the Massachusetts State bureau of statistics, that year witnessed the greatest number of strikes in that State since 1881. The statistics also convey the interesting information that the strikers were more successful than in the other years, as 61 per cent of them gained better conditions than existed before striking, while a fraction over 35 per cent succeeded in securing all their demands. The number who failed to secure any of their demands was 39 per cent, but this is lower than previous years, for it is shown that in 1911 the failures were 42.7 per cent; in 1910, 51.8 per cent, and in 1909, 45.1 per cent. The report comments on the fact as "remarkable" that 62 per cent of all strikers were employed in the textile trades.

INTERPRETS WOMEN'S LAW.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 3.—Because of numerous queries of merchants, Deputy Attorney General Hargest has ruled that the recently enacted women's law means that the week's maximum shall constitute fifty-four hours. Mr. Hargest, however, rules that women may be worked twelve hours a day for three days in a week in a holiday season, but the total maximum for the week must not exceed fifty-four. He states that "the law permits females under the age of twenty-one years to be employed after 9 o'clock in the evening during three days in a week in which a holiday is observed, provided the maximum hours of employment do not exceed fifty-four hours in such week."

FAVOR TAX EXEMPTION.

Toronto, Jan. 3.—At its last session the Dominion Grange favored an exemption of improvements from taxation. A committee was instructed to handle the various proposals of co-operation between farmers' organizations in Canada, to the end that middlemen's profits may be eliminated. A good roads program was agreed upon, as was one calling for further development of the parcels post system. Substitution of the initiative and referendum on other than routine legislation was favored in place of the present party system.

AGAINST "COMPANY" UNION.

Altoona, Pa., Jan. 3.—For the purpose of showing railroad workers the advantages of the bona fide railroad brotherhoods, as against a "company" organization known as the Employes' Mutual Association, the various railroad organizations have held two fine meetings in this city, which has resulted in a better understanding between the railroaders, and it is now believed a branch of the Brotherhood of Federated Railway Employes will be formed here in the near future.

LABOR TEMPLE FOR DENVER.

Denver, Jan. 3.—Tentative plans have been agreed on by Denver organized workers, and it is declared that a labor temple will be well under way at the close of the coming year. The plans include the creation of a labor temple department by the Trades and Labor assembly and the payment by each union man and woman of one cent for each working day in 1914. The latter proposition will be submitted to a referendum vote.

AIR IS FREE IN FRANCE.

Paris, Jan. 3.—If any capitalist has had designs on cornering air in France, his hopes are rudely shattered, because of an important decision of the Court of Appeals, at Amiens, which denies the right of a speculator to buy land near an airship company, and then make it impossible, through the erection of high fences, for the company to navigate aloft.

FARMERS ORGANIZING.

Fargo, N. D., Jan. 3.—Following the example of the trade unions the farmers of this State are organizing under the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union. The first local in the State was instituted at Bismarck in June last. Since that time there have been twelve other local unions organized, all with a large membership.

WOOL GROWERS FRIENDLY.

St. Paul, Jan. 3.—At the last meeting of the State Federation of Labor executive council a representative of the Minnesota Wool Growers' association addressed the body on the question of farmers and laborers coming to a better understanding to the end that farm products could be purchased more direct and at less cost than they are now.

ENGRAVERS WIN DISPUTE.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 3.—The Twin City Photo-Engravers' Union announces the settlement of differences between the organization and the Daily News, of this city. This was made possible because of an agreement between the union and the St. Paul Engraving Company, which does the engraving work for the paper in question.